

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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1. The Institute for Chemical Research on Polyamides (Ustav pro chemicky vyzkum polyamidu) occupied approximately one third of the three-story building (known as Number 65) of the Svit National Corporation in Gottwaldov. Svit's Chemical Institute occupied the rest of this building. The Institute for Chemical Research on Polyamides had originally been under the administration of the Svit National Corporation. In 1950, however, it received an independent administration and was put under the immediate jurisdiction of the General Directorate of Czechoslovak Chemical Plants, which intended to transfer research on polyamides to the Silon National Enterprise at Plana nad Luznicí [4921N-1442E]. This intention was later given up. As of summer 1952, research on polyamides was immediately under the Ministry of Chemical Industry. The top executives of the Svit National Corporation at Gottwaldov have been asking, so far in vain, for the transfer of research on polyamides from Gottwaldov to another place. The Institute for Chemical Research on Polyamides employed 75 people; its chief was Eng. Josef (?) Moravec.

2. In the spring of 1952 Eng. Moravec succeeded in laboratory production of a new artificial fiber which he called "silen".

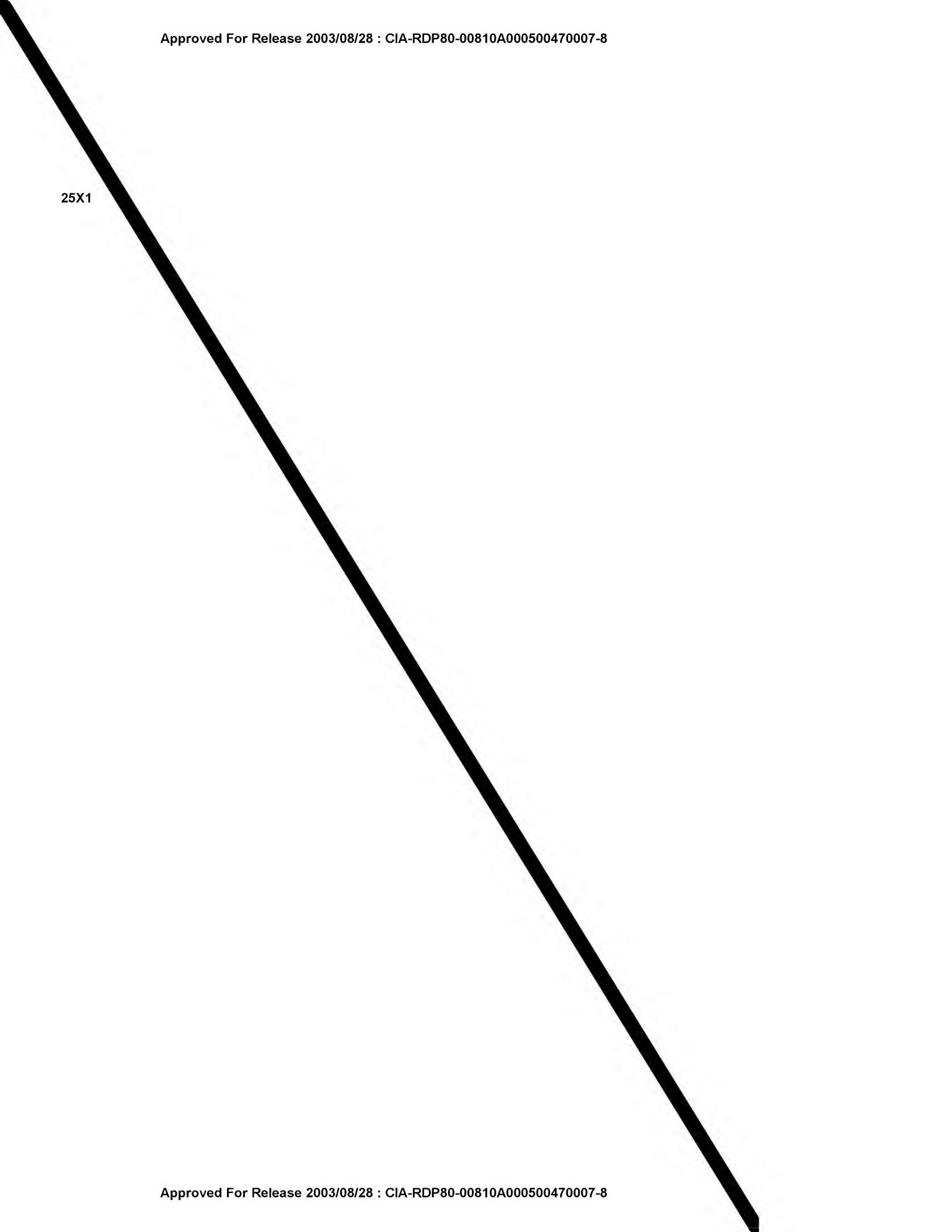
25X1A "silen" was essentially the same thing as the British-made fiber "Terylen" (a product derived from terephthalic acid). This fact, however, was known only to a small circle of persons around Moravec. At the Research Institute the new material was generally referred to as "silen"; the Czechoslovak public has not been informed about the existence of the new fiber.

25X1 In April 1952 Soviet experts heard of research work being performed at Gottwaldov, and, being astonished at this, immediately came to see Moravec and studied the results of his work. Upon intercession of unidentified Soviet officials, Moravec is continuing this research very intensely. During the summer of 1952 Moravec worked on the development of equipment for small-scale trial production of silen.

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